

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 00271 140120Z

ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0271

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF ASST SECRETARY TODMAN - COURTESY POINTS, ETC.

REF: STATE 7944

1. RE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD: PERSONAL CAVEATS:
PRESIDENT WAS LAST IN WASHINGTON FOR SIGNING OF CANAL
TREATIES. ON THAT OCCASION HE HAD ONE-HOUR BILATERAL WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, SECRETARY VANCE
AND TODMAN WERE PRESENT. IN EARLY DECEMBER HE RECEIVED
DEPUTY ASSISSANT SECRETARY OF STATE SHELTON AND DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ABRAMOWITZ. PRESIDENT AND
HIS WIFE VACATIONED IN US IN NOVEMBER 1977. RECENTLY PRO-
MOTED TO LT. GENERAL. SUGGESTED COURTESY POINTS:

-INQUIRE ABOUT MRS. LAUGERUD'S HEALTH (SHE SUFFERS
FROM PHLEBITIS BUT APPEARS MUCH RECOVERED AFTER TREATMENT IN
HOUSTON AND REST)

-- EXPRESS APPRECIATION AT FINE GOG GESTURE OF NAMING
REBUILT KENNETH WOOLEY (EX-AGUA CALIENTE) BRIDGE AFTER US
SOLDIER WHO LOST HIS LIFE IN THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 00271 140120Z

EFFORT.

2. RE MEETING WITH FONMIN MOLINA: PERSONAL CAVEATS:
MOLINA WAS LAST IN US DURING UNGA FOURTH COMMITTEE DEBATES
ON BELIZE (OCTOBER-NOVEMBER) AT WHICH TIME HE MET WITH
UK NEGOTIATORS. HE HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY AND
HABIB. TODMAN WAS PRESENT AT FIRST ONE, OCTOBER 31.

SUGGESTED COURTESY POINTS:

-CONVEY SECRETARY'S REGARDS.

3. RE MEETING WITH DEFMIN SPIEGELER: PERSONAL CAVEATS:

GENERAL SPIEGELER HAS NOT VISITED THE US SINCE AN ORIENTATION TOUR IN 1962. MOST RECENT HIGH-RANKING US CONTACT WAS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMOWITZ' CALL ON HIM DECEMBER 5.

SUGGESTED COURTESY POINTS:

-EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR HELPFULNESS TO US CITIZENS, RECALLING GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE'S RECENT SKILLFUL AND DARING HELICOPTER RESCUE OF A YOUNG AMERICAN STRANDED ON LIP OF FUEGO VOLCANO'S CRATER.

4. ASSUME FULL BIOGRAPHIC REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT ON LAUGERUD, MOLINA AND SPIEGELER AS THEY CONTAIN MUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF A PERSONAL NATURE. FOR INSTANCE, MOLINA TAUGHT LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND WAS PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF THE BINATIONAL CENTER (IGA) HERE; AND LAUGERUD WAS MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON (1968-70) AND HIS WIFE HAS FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING IN THE US.

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